

PROJECT PLAN FOR PROJECT 01-G-13  
DEVELOPMENT OF MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARIES IN  
ALBERTA.

by

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I. INTRODUCTION:

In view of the fact that the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations are to be revised in the near future, it behooves the Canadian Wildlife Service, the administrators of this Act, to have an up-to-date assessment of all sanctuaries, both federal and provincial. In addition we should have at hand an evaluation of potential sanctuary areas. With such information available we should be in a better position to appraise the M.B.C.A. with regard to alternatives to the present sanctuary system. Such alternatives include a managed refuge system as in the United States, management areas of our own design or securing or acquiring habitat to protect migratory birds.

A new "Policy and Procedure for Establishment and Management of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries" was established in March of 1963 by the Canadian Wildlife Service. The views expressed in both that directive and in a report by D. A. Munro in May of 1958 are the basis upon which this project is founded.

The main purposes of this project are to:

- (1) Visit and evaluate present sanctuaries to determine their present value to wildlife and to clarify their legal status.
- (2) Investigate proposed sanctuary sites.
- (3) Adequately post all sanctuaries.
- (4) Make recommendations on the results of the above objectives:
  - (a) to improve or cancel existing sanctuaries,
  - (b) to establish new sanctuaries.

II. The Sanctuary Concept:

It might be of some benefit if the principal activities or purposes in the establishment of a sanctuary were set forth. It should be remembered that the extent to which these goals are achieved depends upon--"the nature of the ownership or trusteeship of the sanctuary area." (Middlemass, 1956)

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The main purpose of any sanctuary is to afford protection for the birds from any interference whatsoever. Any "management operations or experimental work will inevitably disturb both birds and their habitat. The two objectives undoubtedly conflict, but within limits they can be attained together." (ibid)

In the management of a sanctuary one should aim for the minimum disturbance to the birds and their habitat.

One must also keep in mind that sometimes a sanctuary has another function, that of educating the public by allowing them to visit the grounds. If this is allowed, "it is necessary to restrict their access to a limited area where the effects of their presence are minimized and their numbers must be curtailed. Moreover, if the sanctuary is an important breeding ground, entry must be barred altogether during the nesting season." (ibid)

### III.

#### (1) Inglewood.

##### (a) Location and Ownership.

The "Ed Jeffries Inglewood Bird Sanctuary" as it is formally called is located in the city of Calgary, south of the Chestermere-Calgary highway. Originally, the sanctuary consisted of the undivided portion of the southeast quarter section 12, township 24, range 1, west of the 5th meridian which lay between the right of way of the Canadian National Railways and the main channel of the Bow River.

Three years later, in April of 1932, another parcel of land (approx. 342 acres) was added to the sanctuary; this lay in sections 9-16, township 24, range 29, west of the 4th meridian and sections 1 and 12, township 24, range 1, west of the 5th meridian. (See map #1.) A detailed description of the boundaries may be obtained from Plan 3577-P, of the City of Calgary or Order in Council #P.C. 1954-1804, of the Federal Government.

The land within the sanctuary is not government owned. Mr. Jefferies, a private citizen, owns most of the industrial land within the sanctuary, and in addition, Brink's Florist have a parcel of land.

The old Col. Walker residence, located on the sanctuary, along with 1.6 acres of land was sold by Mr. Jefferies for the nominal sum of \$1.00 to the Alberta Fish and Game Association in 1955.

They also have a twenty-year lease from Mr. Jefferies on the two islands, and the land known as the Inglewood Sanctuary, with the proviso that Mr. Jefferies may at any time remove gravel from any part of the sanctuary. In return for this lease, the Alberta Fish and Game Association are "to maintain and improve the said Jefferies Bird Sanctuary in such a manner as is usual and customary in skilful and proper sanctuary operations, and the provisions of law relating thereto--" (Agreement between Jefferies and Sons Ltd. and Alberta Fish and Game Association, 1955).

(b) Date and Reason for Establishment.

Inglewood was established as a sanctuary in 1929 at the request of Major Walker, then owner of the entire area. The justification for such a move lay in the fact that--"each year about 200 wild ducks winter there. It is further stated that Hungarians and Prairie Chicken mingle there with the poultry and it is quite a common sight to see a flock of Hungarians on the lawn during the fall and winter season." (Letter to J. A. Munro from J. B. Harkin, August 14, 1928.)

(c) Report on Sanctuary Conditions.

Although some effort has been made in the past to beautify the area, little work of this kind is being conducted at present.

There are, in addition to the old Colonel Walker residence, several buildings including the home of Bruce Stewart, a storage bin for grain, a trailer and pens housing Chukkar partridges. There is also a fish hatchery built in the lagoon where the "Calgary Brewery" maintains a supply of fingerling and yearling trout.

In numerous visits to the sanctuary over the past year, the author has seen raw sewage and pollutants issuing into the lagoon from a city storm sewer. On more than one occasion he has reported malodorous fumes on the sanctuary property. These are caused not only by the raw sewage but also from the B. A. oil plant in the vicinity.

Last winter there was a severe case of oil pollution of sanctuary waters. Mr. Sugden picked up several dead and dying ducks as a direct result of oil slick contamination. Although never proven, it is suspected that the British American Oil Company was responsible. Officials of the City of Calgary were informed of this pollution problem and stated that nothing could be done about raw sewage because three or four houses in the locality could not be "hooked up" economically to the city sewage system.

The city fire department ignited the oil in order to clean up the area. (See photos.)

## (d) Local Residents and Authorities.

In an effort to determine local interest in the Sanctuary, numerous phone calls were made to various organizations on a trip to Calgary on Aug. 18th, 1965. The following is a list of the people called and their reaction.

Bruce Stewart, Secretary Treasurer of the Alberta Fish and Game Association, who was in favor of the area being cancelled as a sanctuary.

R. D. Webb, Provincial Biologist, who was in favor of the sanctuary being cancelled as such.

Dave Beck, president of the Calgary Pigeon Club, who thought the sanctuary was a good thing but who had not been there for some time and never did visit it very much.

Mr. Jefferies, president and owner of Consolidated Concrete, who owns most of the land in the sanctuary and is not concerned one way or the other.

Mr. MacKay, newly-appointed director of the Calgary Zoo, who stated..."if the present condition of Inglewood could be corrected--retain it as a sanctuary. If not, then I would doubt very much if the public would be greatly upset by the cancellation as a federal sanctuary."

## (e) Discussion and Recommendations.

At the initial time of establishment Inglewood probably served very well as a migratory bird sanctuary in that it protected wintering waterfowl as well as a variety of indigenous species which attracted the public interest. With present conditions as they are and in the light of the avowed C.W.S. policy to rid the area of overwintering waterfowl, there is little to recommend the furtherance of Inglewood as a sanctuary. In any event, the sanctuary is well within the city limits and consequently birds are protected by municipal law. On this basis I would recommend Inglewood be cancelled as a federal sanctuary. The only possible reason for maintaining it as such would be adverse public reaction to a proposed cancellation. Such a reaction is highly unlikely in view of all the opinions expressed to the contrary.

## (2) Gaetz Sanctuary (Red Deer).

## (a) Location and Ownership.

Referring to Mr. Soper's report of 1939 the location of this sanctuary may be described as follows: "the sanctuary occupies the west half section 22, township 38, range 27 west of the fourth meridian. Highway #1 lies one mile west." (Soper, 1939, WLU-74.9.5)

Mr. John J. Gaetz gave the use of the above designated piece of land to the Alberta Natural History Society in March, 1922.

Several individuals suggested that this area be maintained as a bird sanctuary. This was done by Order-in-Council 1080 in June of 1924.

In 1965, a prominent Red Deer citizen bought the sanctuary lands.

(b) Report on Sanctuary Conditions.

Throughout the spring and summer of 1965 three visits were made to the bird sanctuary. Approximately 100 waterfowl were seen mostly redheads and canvasbacks. In addition various other songbirds were seen. Sanctuary conditions were good in that nature paths were well kept and benches for visitors provided. Bird houses were set up. The public were making use of the sanctuary as was evidenced by the visitors seen on each occasion.

(c) Local Residents and Authorities.

In reports on file WLU-74.9.5 by R. D. Harris, H. R. Webster and D. Soper and through discussions with Mr. Kerry Wood of Red Deer, science teachers and provincial game officers, it was found that much use was and is being made of the sanctuary. In addition to general use by the public, the sanctuary is used by school teachers and scout masters conducting natural history lessons.

(d) Discussion and Recommendations.

Although the sanctuary is within the municipal boundary of Red Deer and the area is not used extensively by migrating or nesting waterfowl, it is recommended that this sanctuary be retained in that it serves an educational purpose for the people of Red Deer. Furthermore the population has such a vested interest in the sanctuary that adverse public reaction would undoubtedly result if it were cancelled.



Sign at the entrance to the Inglewood Sanctuary. Note the bird house on the pole to the left of the sign. There are several such bird houses at various locations throughout the Sanctuary.



Chukar partridges (adult) which are housed in pens at the Inglewood Sanctuary. These are some of over two hundred birds being raised by Mrs. Bruce Stewart, wife of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Alberta Fish & Game Association.



Open sewer outlet to Bow River showing complete canal. Untreated raw sewerage from City of Calgary empties out this canal.

(PHOTO - ERNIE PSILKLA)



Oil substance which collected at the head of the Sanctuary and flowed on to the ice. Sewer line runs parallel to the rocks in the right hand side of the picture.

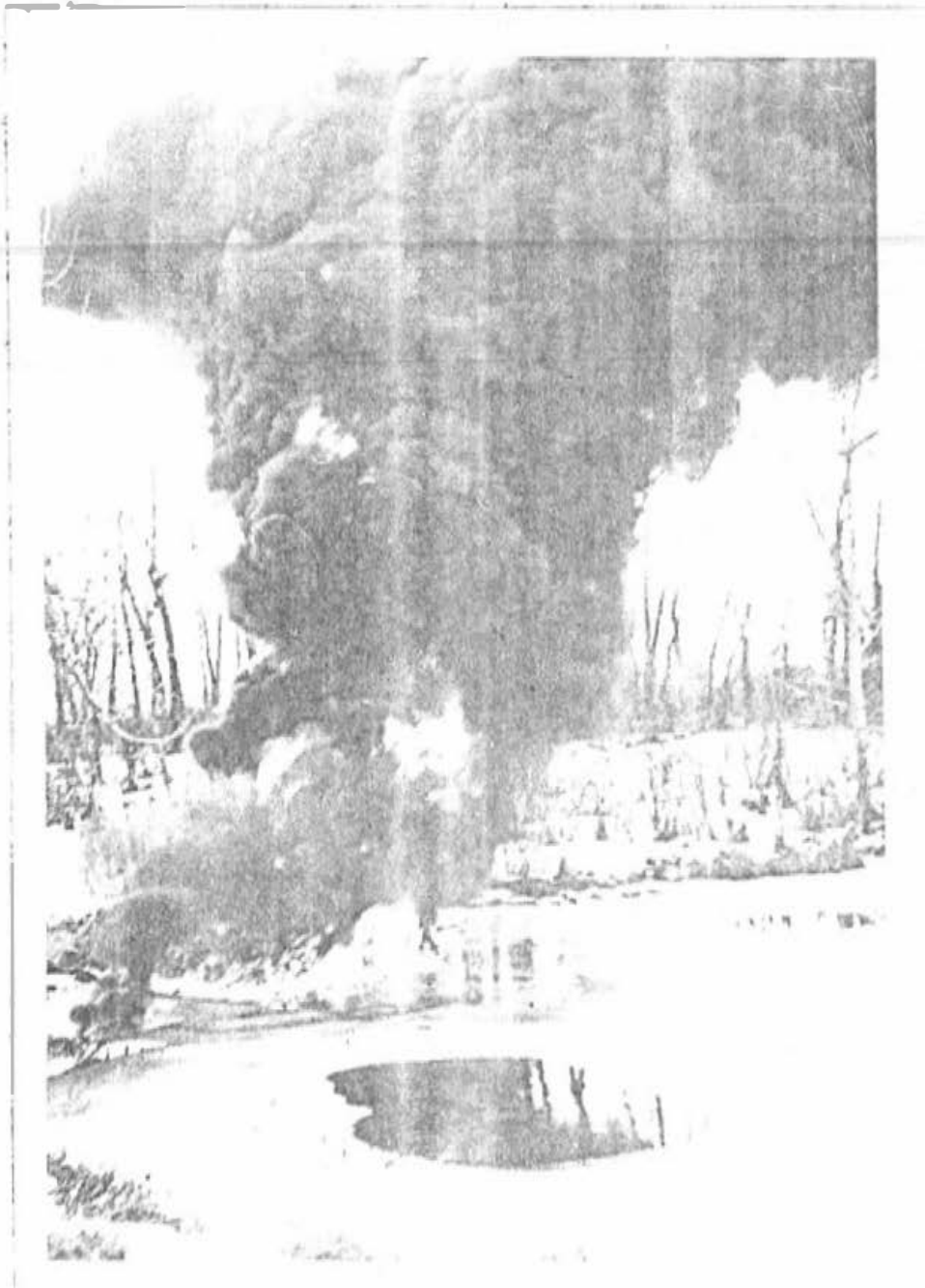
(PHOTO - Ernie Psikla)



General overall view of oil polluted area. Sewer line runs under the pile of rocks seen to the right of the picture.

(PHOTO - Ernie Psikla)





Actual oil burnoff done by Calgary Fire Department, March 2, 1965.  
Bruce Rae - B.A. Pollution Engineer estimated 250 gallons liquid  
(oil) on the water.

(PHOTO - ERNIE PSIKLA)



Sewer outlet into Bow River with Heavy oil film on water,  
March 2, 1965.

(PHOTO - Ernie Psikla)



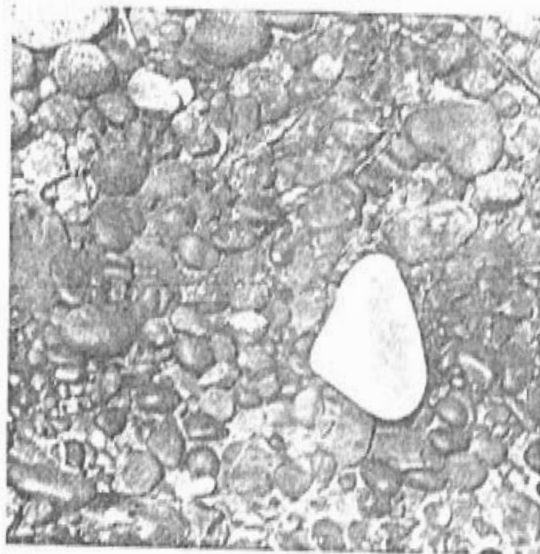
Area of the oil substance which collected on the H<sub>2</sub>O and ice.

(Photo Ernie Psikla)



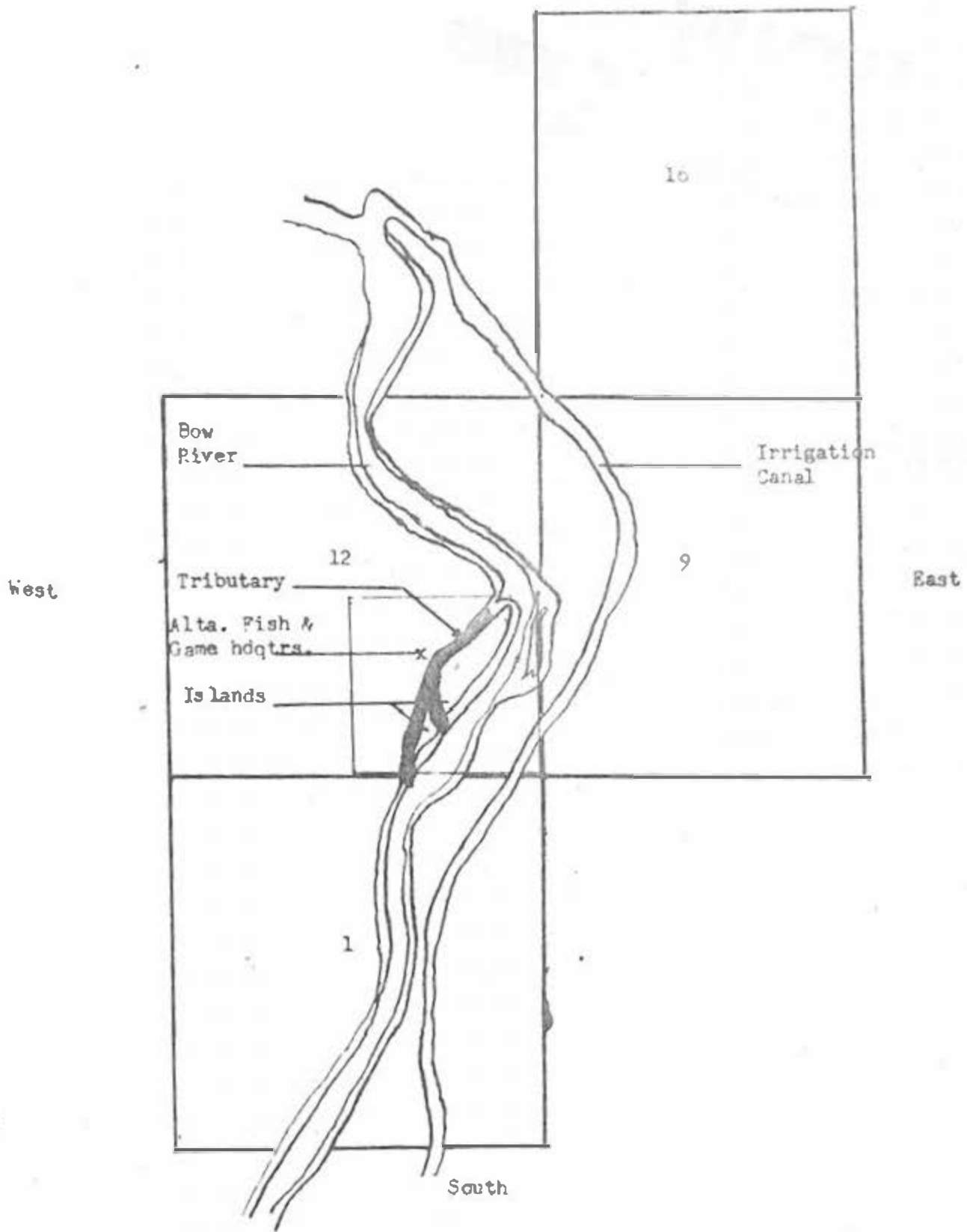
Another view of the oil burnoff showing oil on surface of snow and H<sub>2</sub>O in the background.

(PHOTO - ERNIE PSIKLA)



Comparison of rocks with oil pollutants  
from B.A. Refinery and an uncoated stone.

North



INGLEWOOD BIRD SANCTUARY CALGARY, ALBERTA

SCALE: 1" to 2,000'